



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

## NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Doug Carlson, Information Officer

(916) 653-5114 | [Doug.Carlson@water.ca.gov](mailto:Doug.Carlson@water.ca.gov)

Ted Thomas, Information Officer

(916) 653-9712 | [Ted.Thomas@water.ca.gov](mailto:Ted.Thomas@water.ca.gov)

### **DWR's State Fair Exhibits Inspire Water Conservation, Rain or Shine** Step-by-Step Guide to Replace Lawns with Water-Wise Landscape

**SACRAMENTO** – California's five-year drought proved that water users up and down the state could achieve great water savings with planning and forethought.

After a record winter of rain, many people are asking if water conservation is still important. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) answers that question at the 2017 California State Fair (July 14-30 at Cal Expo) with its colorful exhibit, "Water Conservation: Rain or Shine." The exhibit, located in the Farm area, showcases the beauty and abundance of water-wise gardens and landscapes and highlights the many reasons that Californians should continue a lifestyle of water conservation. Despite a wet season, underground aquifers still need replenishment, and a changing climate will likely impact water supply. Additionally, water-wise landscapes are beautiful, low maintenance, and save money.

The best way to cut water consumption is by replacing a home's green lawn with a low-water-use landscape. Lawn watering can account for 50 percent or more of an urban household's water usage.

DWR's "Water Conservation: Rain or Shine" exhibit features:

- Step-by-step instructions on how to remove one's lawn and replace it with water-wise or edible landscaping;
- Information about how to access up to \$2,000 in rebates for a lawn replacement project;
- Demonstration gardens of water-wise plants and flowers that attract pollinators and beneficial insects;
- Brochure identifying more than 50 water-wise plants and flowers featured in the exhibit;
- Information on maintaining the health of our valuable trees;
- Activities for kids and adults alike, including a water-wise garden quiz to earn poppy seeds.

Kids Day at the Fair is on July 18 and 25. DWR staff will be at the Farm from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to help kids make a wick-watering planter and take home a water-wise or edible plant.

In addition to the water-wise garden and landscape exhibit, DWR has prepared an exhibit to raise awareness about invasive quagga mussels and the threat they present to California's waterways. Visitors won't want to miss the supersized sculpture of a quagga mussel.

DWR has collaborated with the California Department of Food and Agriculture to present new exhibits in the Insect Pavilion about beneficial and harmful insects.

The DWR “Water Conservation: Rain or Shine” exhibit and its conservation experts are located in The Farm adjacent to Building B.



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